Minimum Wages for road construction work etc.; and

(c) whether Government propose to appoint a National High Powered Evaluation Committee to assess the working of Employment Guarantee Scheme to consider pros and cons for its introduction in other States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI UPENDRA NATH VERMA): (a) According to the information furnished by the Maharashtra Government, District Employment Guarantee Committee in every district and a Panchayat Samiti Employment Guarantee Committee in every Panchayat Samiti area has been constituted under the provisions of the Maharashtra Employment Guarantee Act, 1977 (Act No. XX of 1978) which came into effect from January 1979. Besides, Maharashtra Employment Guarantee Council has also been constituted at the State level under the provisions of the Act for periodical review and supervision of the implementation of the Act. In addition, there is one Employment Guarantee Scheme (EGS) committee appointed by legislature for inspecting and evaluating EGS work and to point out shortcomings in implementation of EGS and suggest remedies thereon.

(b) The Committees at the District and Samiti level do not give any report on misdirection and misuse of Employment Guarantee Scheme (EGS) or on malpractices in payment of wages to labourers. However, the members of these committees in their individual capacity, members of public as well as labourers and their organisations and State level committees report malpractices on employment guarantee scheme work to Government from time to time and Government take action on these complaints.

(c) No, Sir.

2717. [*Transferred to the 4th September*, 1990].

ESI Health Benefits

2718 SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:
SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of the total labour force in India including those in small, rural and unorganised sectors covered by the ESI health benefits; and

(b) what steps are being contemplated to extend these benefiets to those not yet covered?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) About 2.64 per cent.

(b) The ESI Scheme is already being extended in a phased manner, to new areas/sectors of employment depending on the concentration of coverable employees, for whom viable medical arrangement can be made by the State Governments.

भारतीय खाद्य निगम की पटना स्थित शाखा में अनियमितताएं

2719. **श्री राम अवधेश सिंह :** क्या **खाद्य और नागरिक पूर्ति** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि भारतीय खाद्य निगम के पटना क्षेत्र के सीनियर मैनेजर ने परिवहन से संबंधित कार्य को अनुचित ढंग से अपने कुछ चहेते ठेकेदारों को दे दिया है और वह उनसे कमीशन भी ले रहा है।

(ख) क्या यह भी सच है कि श्रम संघों को खराब बना दिया है जिससे कार्य में अड़चनें आ रही हैं यदि हां, तो इसका ब्यौरा क्या है ; और

(ग) परिवहन कार्य के लिए गत तीन वर्षों के दौरान प्राप्त हुई सभी निविदाओं का ब्यौरा क्या है और उन ठेकेदार